

For immediate release:

Jan. 26, 2009

Up to 75% Conservation Cost Share Still Available for Walnut Creek Watershed Landowners

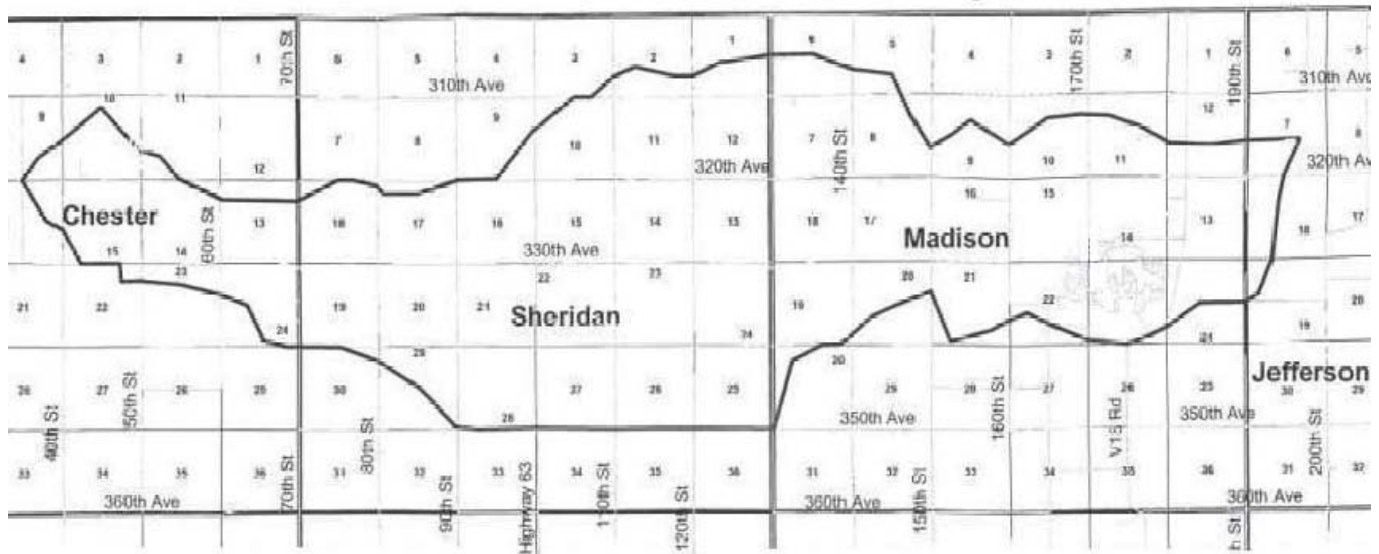
The Poweshiek County Soil & Water Conservation District is now working in the 2nd year of the 3 year Walnut Creek Watershed Grant in the northern part of the county (see map). In 2008, 10 projects applied for cost share, and all 10 were approved for over \$43,000 of total watershed grant cost share. This cost share was combined with about \$74,500 of obligated and approved EQIP cost share funds, for a total of 75% cost share to landowners.

The Walnut Creek grant funds are meant to be used along with the funds from the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. Together, this allows the landowner to receive up to 75% cost share to install conservation practices such as: **Grassed Waterways, Terraces, Basins, Grade Stabilization Structures, and managed Grazing Systems.**

By itself, EQIP can also provide cost share to the whole county for eligible: Waste Storage Facilities, Pasture and Hay-land Planting, Livestock Watering Facilities, and Tree Planting. The next round of EQIP ranking is anticipated to be in the next few months. Signup for EQIP and Walnut Creek cost share is at the Poweshiek County USDA Service Center located at 405 Montezuma Street, in Malcom, IA.

Conservation plans must be developed for the entire area that will be included in the EQIP contract. Through the Walnut Creek grant, and under EQIP, the USDA provides technical assistance on certain structural practices and incentive payments to eligible producers who enter contracts up to 10 years, based on conservation plans.

Walnut Creek in Poweshiek County



For more information, or to apply for Walnut Creek Grant funds and/or EQIP funds, contact the Malcom USDA / NRCS office at: **641-528-2065 X3**, or e-mail: Greg.Townley@ia.usda.gov. Watershed Info: <http://watershed.iowadnr.gov/walnutcreek/>

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer